

PREFACE

Introduction

Internationally, the design and regulatory community has embraced the need for a code that emphasizes performance requirements rather than prescriptive requirements. This need is not unique to the international community. As such, the *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities*™, in this 2003 edition, is designed to meet this need through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

The *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities*™ clearly defines the objectives for achieving the intended levels of occupant safety, property protection, and community welfare. The code provides a framework to achieve the defined objectives in terms of tolerable levels of damage and magnitudes of design events, such as fire and natural hazards.

The concepts covered by this code are not intended to be any different in scope than those covered by the 2003 edition of the *International Codes* (I-Codes) published by the International Code Council (ICC)®. However, this code is distinctly different than the other *International Codes*, which, in many cases, direct the user to a single solution to address a safety concern for a building or facility. The performance code allows the user to achieve various solutions, systematically. It should be noted that the family of *International Codes*, including the *International Building Code*®, *ICC Electrical Code*™, *International Energy Conservation Code*®, *International Existing Building Code*®, *International Fire Code*®, *International Fuel Gas Code*®, *International Mechanical Code*®, *International Plumbing Code*®, *International Private Sewage Disposal Code*®, *International Property Maintenance Code*®, *International Residential Code*®, *International Urban-Wildland Interface Code*™, and *International Zoning Code*®, is considered to provide an acceptable solution that will comply with the Performance Code. Conversely, this code provides a procedure to address design and review issues associated with the alternative materials and methods sections of the codes cited above.

It is strongly recommended that users of this code consult the user's guide located in the second portion of this publication to gain additional insight into the provisions of this code.

The *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* provisions provide many benefits, including the model code development process, which offers an international forum for design professionals, code officials, and other interested parties to discuss performance code requirements. This forum provides an excellent arena to debate proposed revisions. This model code also encourages international consistency in the application of provisions.

Development

The first edition of the *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* (2001) was the culmination of an effort initiated in 1996 by the ICC. This effort included two drafting committees, Fire and Building, appointed by the ICC and consisting of representatives of the three statutory members of the International Code Council: Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI). The intent was to draft a comprehensive set of performance regulations, consistent in scope with the existing model codes, but with a performance emphasis. This 2003 edition presents the code as originally issued, with changes approved in the 2002 ICC code development process. A new edition such as this is promulgated every three years.

With the development and publication of the family of *International Codes* in 2000, the continued development and maintenance of the model codes individually promulgated by BOCA ("BOCA National Codes"), ICBO ("Uniform Codes"), and SBCCI ("Standard Codes") was discontinued. The 2003 *International Codes*, as well as their predecessors, the 2000 *International Codes* and the 2001 *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities*, are intended to succeed those codes previously developed by BOCA, ICBO, and SBCCI.

The development of a single family of comprehensive and coordinated *International Codes* was a significant milestone in the development of regulations for the built environment. The timing of this publication reflects a milestone in the change in structure of the model codes, namely, the pending consolidation of BOCA, ICBO, and SBCCI into the ICC. The activities and services previously provided by the individual model code organizations will be the responsibility of the consolidated ICC.

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a performance code that adequately protect public health, safety, and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products, or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products, or methods of construction.

Adoption

The *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws. At the time of adoption, jurisdictions should insert the appropriate information in provisions requiring specific local information, such as the name of the adopting jurisdiction. These locations are shown in bracketed words in small capital letters in the code and in the sample ordinance. The sample adoption ordinance on page vii addresses several key elements of a code adoption ordinance, including the information required for insertion into the code text. In addition, because of the reliance of most performance-based design on proper maintenance of building and fire protection systems, it is recommended that a jurisdiction adopt this code in its entirety.

Maintenance

The *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* is kept up to date through the review of proposed changes submitted by code enforcing officials, industry representatives, design professionals, and other interested parties. Proposed changes are carefully considered through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate.

The contents of this work are subject to change both through the code development cycles and the governmental body that enacts the code into law. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Code and Standard Development Department of the International Code Council.

While the development procedure of the *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* assures the highest degree of care, ICC and the founding members of ICC—BOCA, ICBO, SBCCI, their members, and those participating in the development of this code do not accept any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance with the provisions, because ICC and its founding members do not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of this code. Only the governmental body that enacts the code into law has such authority.

Marginal Markings

Solid vertical lines in the margins within the body of the code indicate a technical change from the requirements of the 2001 edition. Deletion indicators (◆) are provided in the margin where a paragraph or item has been deleted.